

While England was thus longing for aid, Russia was engaged in the Caucasus, having sent a small military corps to chase off an expedition sent in the direction of the Araks and other borders of the Pacific. An English agent named Thompson, who is credited to "Chinese" information, heard of this and endeavored to induce their assistance. The matter was communicated by a Mr. Vassil, an Italian, just now in the country, to the Russian consul at Constantinople. Thompson had come up with the party at a place called Bazar Dagh; the meeting was friendly, but Vassil said that the Russians claimed large tracts of country.